

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: August 30, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 26, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response (Mercury), Audrey Street, Dearborn, Michigan

On August 22, 2002, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) P.C. Lall responded to a mercury release at a house in Dearborn, Michigan. Poison control center alerted Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) regarding the discharge of mercury in the basement of a home in Dearborn, Michigan, originating from a mercury regulator that was removed by Michigan Consolidated (Mich Con) gas company crews. Mich Con hired Marine Pollution Control to cleanup the mercury. Based upon reports from the occupants of the house and poison control center, MDCH requested U.S. EPA oversight. High levels of mercury were recorded in the basement and first floor. After cleaning and venting the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) air sampling is planned by Mich Con prior to releasing the house for occupancy.

Contact: P.C. Lall (734-692-7685)

Demobilization Initiated, Lefton Iron and Metal Sites, East St. Louis, Illinois

On August 26, 2002, U.S. EPA began demobilization activities at the Lefton Iron and Metal cleanup site. This site was characterized as having extremely elevated levels of lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in the onsite soils. The cleanup of this former scrap metal recycling facility is under the direction of On-Scene Coordinators Mike Harris and Kevin Turner.

The Lefton Iron and Metal site had previously received numerous complaints alleging that PCBs had been dumped at the site. There are 5 former Lefton facilities within East St. Louis, Illinois. This removal action includes two of the Lefton sites. The sites are located in a mixed residential/industrial community. Throughout the years the various Lefton facilities received a variety of attention from the regulatory agencies. Both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and U.S. EPA site assessments revealed PCBs at concentrations well above 50 mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram) and lead above 5000 mg/kg. As part of this cleanup, 3,200 tons of scrap metal, tanks, drum carcasses, dummy practice bombs, rail, and cylinders; 26,650 tons of PCB soils; and, 25,170 tons of lead contaminated soils were taken off-site for recycling or disposal.

Contacts: Mike Harris (312-886-0760)
Kevin Turner (618-997-0115)

Settlement Reached, Honeywell International, Inc., Detroit, Michigan

On August 14, 2002, U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving the Administrative Complaint filed against Honeywell International, Inc., Detroit, Michigan. The Complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103 and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Sections 304(a) & (c). On February 5, 1998, and December 17, 1999, the facility had releases of coal tar. Two components of coal tar benzo(a)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene are hazardous substances under CERCLA and each has a reportable quantity of one pound. The February 1998 release was called into the National Response Center (NRC) and the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) more than 10 hours after the incident. The December 1999 release was called into the NRC and the SERC more than two hours after the incident. Honeywell International, Inc., has agreed to pay a \$36,000 penalty (\$8,640 to Superfund and \$27,360 to the General Treasury). Honeywell International, Inc., will have 60 days to pay the penalty.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Settlement Reached, Onyx Environmental Services, LLC, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

On August 2, 2002, the U.S. EPA filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to resolve an Administrative Complaint against Onyx Environmental Services, LLC, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, that was filed on April 29, 2002. The Complaint alleges a violation of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103. On July 2, 2001, at 11:00 a.m., a truck, the facility, hauling hazardous

waste had a 15,720 pound release of Unlisted Hazardous Waste Characteristic of Corrosivity. Unlisted Hazardous Waste Characteristic of Corrosivity is a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 100 pounds. This release was 157 times the RQ. The company has cleaned up where the release occurred. The release occurred during the transportation of the waste material at a Libertyville, Illinois, Roadside Oasis. Onyx Environmental Services called the National Response Center on July 2, 2001, at 3:00 p.m. Onyx Environmental Services, LLC, is in compliance with Sections 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The final cash penalty agreed to in the CAFO is \$9,282. Onyx Environmental Services, LLC will have 30 days to pay the cash penalty.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Emergency Site Assessment, Hoskins Manufacturing, Mio, Michigan

On August 13, 2002, U.S. EPA mobilized its Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractors to the Hoskins Manufacturing Company located in Mio, Michigan, to secure the abandoned facility and assess public health and environmental threats. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Environmental Response Division, was notified that the company had recently filed for bankruptcy and had vacated the facility leaving behind a substantial quantity of wastes considered hazardous. MDEQ requested U.S. EPA assistance as the facility was open and accessible to the public.

U.S. EPA found numerous open top tanks of acid and caustic liquids, and approximately 100 drums of corrosive, flammable and oxidizer wastes scattered throughout the building. Electric and gas utilities were still on and many of the entrance ways were unlocked.

Over the course of two days, U.S. EPA instructed ERRS to secure the building and START to perform a site assessment including sample collection and hazardous waste inventory. U.S. EPA will pursue enforcement activities and initiate a time-critical removal action. MDEQ has informed U.S. EPA that Hoskins abandoned three additional facilities in Michigan and one in Indiana and has requested continued U.S. EPA assistance.

Contact: Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Draft Received, "Superfund Region 5 On-Scene Coordinators, Homeland Defense Medical Safety Plan", Chicago, Illinois

On July 31, 2002, a draft of the U.S. EPA Region 5 Homeland Defense Medical Safety Plan was completed. The purpose of this document is to provide U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Response Personnel working on Homeland Defense with medical contact information and detailed directions for site-specific medical procedures.

The Superfund Division received a copy of the draft of the U.S. EPA Region 5 Homeland Defense Medical Safety Plan. The Superfund Division will review this document, and submit comments and recommendations to James Finn (Regional Health and Safety Manager) and Patricia Kelleher (Federal Occupational Health On-Site Medical Director).

The overall goals of the Homeland Defense Health and Safety program remain that of ensuring the employee's work environment is free of recognized hazards and eliminating and/or minimizing the severity of occupational accidents and illness to the maximum degree practical.

Contacts: Afif Marouf (312-353-5550)
Jacqueline Dillard (312-353-8730)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Agency Participation, National Marina Day, Burnham Harbor, Chicago, Illinois

On August 10, 2002, members of the U.S. EPA Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Program co-sponsored the first National Marina Day at Burnham Harbor in Chicago, Illinois. Westrec Marinas Management Company, which manages the Chicago harbors and boat docks owned by the Chicago Park District, was the primary sponsor of the event. National Marina Day was designated by the Marina Operators Association of America (MOAA). U.S. EPA participation was three-fold. U.S. EPA acted as a liaison between Westrec Marinas and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to arrange for USCG participation at this event. Bob Allen, USCG Chief, Marine Safety Response Operations Branch, arranged to have personnel appear as "Officer Snook", a cartoon character, hand out coloring books, and teach kids about water quality. USCG Marine Safety Office personnel were also present to discuss pollution prevention and spill reporting. Two USCG boats were docked to conduct on-board Courtesy Marine Exams (CMEs). Secondly, when boaters came to the fuel dock, Westrec employees fueled the boat for the owner and demonstrated the use of two

fuel spill prevention devices. Both U.S. EPA and Westrec employees talked to the boat owners while the fueling operation took place and discussed the spill prevention devices used, how they worked, and gave free oil-absorbent cloths to the boat owner for future use. U.S. EPA also distributed buttons for kids with various pollution prevention slogans and talked to them about the importance of keeping our waters safe for boating, drinking, and fishing. The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water also participated in the event by supplying literature and the spill prevention devices to Westrec Marinas.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

Table Top Exercise, Terre Haute, Indiana

On July 10, 2002, Cheryl McIntyre and Silvia Palomo, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), and Greg Gehrig with Roy F. Weston Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) II, took part in the table top exercise at the Growers Cooperative in Terre Haute, Indiana. Participants in the exercise included representatives from local government, emergency response organizations, schools, hospitals, and the media. The exercise was hosted by the Vigo County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and focused on the LEPC plan. The Risk Management Plan alternative release scenario provided by the Hydrite Chemical Company was used as the basis for the exercise design. It involved the simulated release of 6,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide.

During exercise play, a number of concerns were raised. Communication issues between the facility and responders surfaced early. No one from the facility spoke directly with the fire department until the unit was at the gate of the facility. It seems as if both parties may have been waiting for the other to initiate contact. Moreover, communication issues among area groups, agencies, and the general public were revealed. It was unclear during the exercise how information about the nature of the chemical release incident, once determined, would be disseminated to various schools, hospitals, residents, etc. Overall, participants were very enthusiastic, and they came away from the exercise with an eagerness to improve emergency planning and response. Written comments were solicited from participants for inclusion in a final report that will be prepared.

Contact: Cheryl McIntyre (312-886-1964)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation (Michelle Jaster)**

On-Scene Coordinator Michelle Jaster was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Coast Guard, Ninth District, in "recognition of notable services which have assisted greatly in furthering the aims and functions of the Coast Guard." The certificate reads, "Ms. Jaster has worked diligently with the Coast Guard to enhance plans for a coordinated multi-agency response to potential major spill emergencies occurring in the coastal and inland zones. Ms. Jaster's initiative and leadership reflect great credit upon U.S. EPA Region 5 and merit special recognition in the form of this Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation."

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
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Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
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